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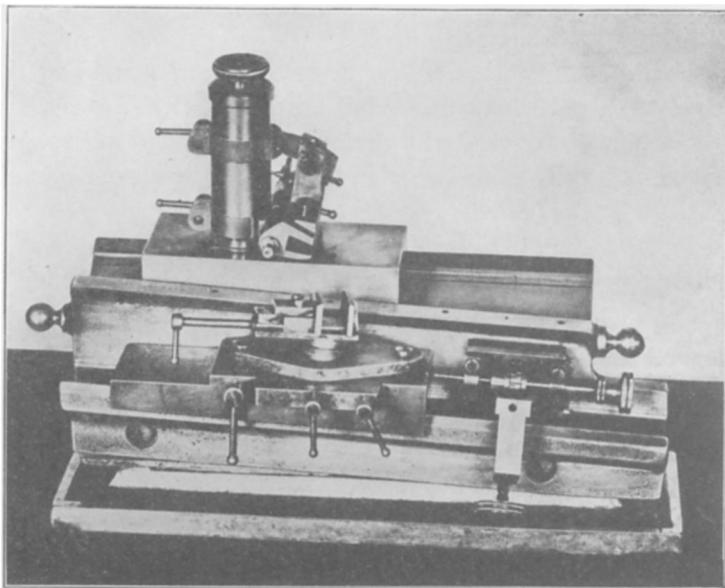
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BRIEFER ARTICLES

A MODIFICATION OF A JUNG-THOMA SLIDING MICROTOME FOR CUTTING WOOD

(WITH ONE FIGURE)

The object and knife carrying blocks are long and heavy. These have planed surfaces of contact with the running surfaces of the base, instead of being mounted on ivory bearings, as is the case in the Thoma instrument. When oiled, the blocks are held by capillarity so firmly to the tracks that



the whole instrument can be suspended by either block without breaking the contact. In this way rigidity is secured and vibration eliminated, so far as the running surfaces are concerned. The friction of running is less than in the ordinary Thoma.

The object clamp is mounted on a solid ball (1.25 inches diameter), in a tight socket. This ball can be revolved horizontally through 180° and vertically through about 45°. It has two orienting levers whose axes

of contact with the ball are at right angles to each other, so that *definite orientation* of the object in either of *two* planes is possible. A third lever draws the plate which fits around the "shoulder" of the ball down when correct orientation has been attained, and makes the whole absolutely rigid.

The knife carrier revolves horizontally on the column of the knife block, and is rapidly adjustable to a height of 1.25 inches by means of the screw at the top, the two levers behind clamping it instantly in place. Arrangement has also been made for the adjustment of the vertical angle of the knife.

The rigidity and rapidity of the adjustment of this instrument are found invaluable in cutting many and long series of wood sections. Its usefulness was demonstrated in the sectioning for Mr. W. P. THOMPSON's work on the rays of the conifers recorded in this issue of the *BOTANICAL GAZETTE*, and the structure of the instrument is outlined here in the hope that others may find it useful.

No small amount of the credit for the performance of the instrument is due to the excellent workmanship of Mr. H. W. SPENCE, who also assisted in the designing.—R. B. THOMSON, *University of Toronto*.